Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): A method for processing messages incoming on a gatekeeper system of an Internet Protocol network, wherein the gatekeeper system includes a gatekeeper and a plurality of sub-processes each able to process a series of such messages, the method comprising: ~~including the step of~~

    the gatekeeper receiving incoming messages; and

    the gatekeeper dispatching received messages among the plurality of sub-processes, wherein the received messages that belong to the same call are dispatched to the same sub-process.

    ~~dispatching the messages incoming on the gatekeeper system onto the different sub-processes, the dispatching step including identifying whether a message belongs to a same call as a previous message, and, in that case, sending the message to the same sub-process as that to which the previous message was sent.~~

2. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, ~~wherein the step of identifying whether a message belongs to a same call as a previous message includes the step of~~ further comprising the gatekeeper identifying whether the received message has the same conference identifier as ~~said~~ a previously received message.

3. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, ~~applied in~~ wherein the method is executed on a H323 network.

4. (currently amended): The method of claim 3, wherein the received messages to be dispatched are "Registration, Admission and status" (RAS) messages.

5. (currently amended): The method of claim 4, further comprising identifying whether the received message is a registration or an admission message, and, if the received message is identified as a registration message, determining the sub-process to which the received message is going to be dispatched on the basis of the current load of the different sub-processes in order to balance the load of the different sub-processes.

6. (currently amended): The method according to claim 4, comprising identifying whether the received message is a registration or an admission message, and, if the received message is an admission message, determining whether the received message is the first admission message of a call, and, in that case, determining the sub-process to which the received message is going to be dispatched on the basis of the current load of the different sub-processes in order to balance the load of the different sub-processes.

7. (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the received messages to be dispatched enter the gatekeeper system in an encoded form and comprise several fields, one or several of these fields containing data which identify a call and further wherein the dispatching step includes decoding the received message only partially, the decoded part including said one or several fields which contain those data.

8. (currently amended): The method according to claim 7, further comprising examining fields of the received message in sequence until finding said one or several fields which contain the data which identify the call.

9. (currently amended): The method of claim 8, further comprising reading one or several fields of the received message which indicate the type of the received message and deducing, on the basis of the type of the received message, a sequence of field types concerning the fields which are placed before said one or several fields that contain the call identifying data.

10. (original): The method of claim 9, further comprising examining a field which indicates whether some optional fields are present or not before said one or several fields

which contain the call identifying data, in order to determine whether such optional fields should be found or not when examining the fields in sequence.

11. (currently amended): A gatekeeper system of an Internet Protocol network, the gatekeeper system comprising a gatekeeper for receiving incoming messages and hosting a plurality of sub-processes each able to process a series of messages, wherein the gatekeeper system is adapted to dispatch the received messages onto those different sub-processes, and further wherein the gatekeeper system has means for identifying whether a received message belongs to a same call as a previously received message, and, in that case, sending this received message to the sub-process that processed the previously received message.

12. (currently amended): The gatekeeper system of claim 11, further comprising means to identify whether a received message has a same conference identifier as a previously received message, and, in that case, sending this message to the sub-process that processed the previously received message.

13. (currently amended): A component for a gatekeeper system of in an Internet Protocol Network, the gatekeeper comprising means for dispatching incoming messages incoming on that component onto a plurality of sub-processes, the component gatekeeper being able to identify whether a received message belongs to a same call as a previously received message, and, in that case, being able to send this received message to the sub-process that processed said previously received message.

14. (currently amended): The component of claim 13, including means to identify whether a received message has a same conference identifier as a previously received message and, in that case, sending this received message to the sub-process that processed said previously received message.

15. (currently amended): A method for processing messages incoming on a gatekeeper system of an Internet Protocol network, wherein the gatekeeper system comprises a

gatekeeper and a plurality of sub-processes each able to process a series of such messages, and further wherein the messages enter the gatekeeper ~~system~~ in an encoded form and comprise a plurality of fields, at least one of which contains data for identifying a call, the method comprising: ~~including the step of~~

the gatekeeper receiving incoming messages;

the gatekeeper decoding received message only partially, the decoded part including said one or several fields which contain those data; and

the gatekeeper dispatching received messages among the plurality of sub-processes, wherein the received messages that belong to the same call are dispatched to the same sub-process.

~~dispatching the messages incoming on the gatekeeper system onto those different sub-processes, the dispatching step including identifying whether a message belongs to the same call as a previous message, and, in that case, sending the message to the same sub-process as the previous message, and further wherein the dispatching step includes decoding the message only partially, the decoded part including said one or several fields which contain those data.~~

16. (original): A gatekeeper system operating in accordance with the method of claim 1.

17. (original): A gatekeeper system operating in accordance with the method of claim 15.